

Message Text

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EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 16648 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRUSSELS KINSHASA RABAT LIBREVILLE ABIDJAN DAKAR
LOME JIDDA MAY 25

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 16648

EXDIS
NOFORN

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MOPS, CG, XA, US, FR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GISCARD WILL DISCUSS SUPPORT
FOR PAN-AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA WITH PRESIDENT

1. DCM AND POL OFFICER CALLED ON PRESIDENT GISCARD'S
AFRICAN ADVISOR RENE JOURNIAC TO ENQUIRE ABOUT AFRICAN
SUBJECTS LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY GISCARD WITH THE
PRESIDENT AT DINNER MAY 26. JOURNIAC SAID THAT THE
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SITUATIONS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS OF AFRICA INCLUDING
THE WESTERN SAHARA, CHAD AND THE HORN WOULD BE
RAISED BUT THAT GISCARD WOULD IN PARTICULAR WISH TO
DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE FOLLOWING THE MOST
RECENT KATANGHESE ATTACK. JOURNIAC (WHO ASKED THAT THE
INFORMATION BE VERY CLOSELY HELD) SAID THAT THE FRENCH
COULD NOT RPT NOT KEEP THE FOREIGN LEGION PARACHUTE

REGIMENT IN SHABA VERY LONG. IN THE COURSE OF THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN SUMMIT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH SHARE FRANCE'S CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET ENCROACHMENTS ON THE CONTINENT HAD AGREED TO HELP ZAIRE MILITARILY IN A LIMITED WAY. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE GOF HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET AGREEMENT, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, FOR AN AFRICAN FORCE OF SOME 1500-1700 MEN WHICH WILL REPLACE THE FRENCH LEGIONAIRES.

2. MOROCCO IS THE KEY TO THIS AFRICAN FORCE. KING HASSAN HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE A FORCE OF ABOUT A THOUSAND MEN. SENEGAL, THE IVORY COAST, TOGO AND GABON HAVE EACH AGREED TO PROVIDE COMPANIES OF ABOUT 150 - 200 MEN. THE PROBLEM FOR EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES IS LIMITED MEANS. IF THEY ARE TO PARTICIPATE THEY WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN EQUIPMENT AND IN LOGISTIC SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY TRANSPORT. WHILE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO TRANSPORT THEIR OWN TROOPS, THEY DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO TRANSPORT THE ACCOMPANYING EQUIPMENT, NOR IN SOME CASES DO THEY HAVE THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. JOURNIAC SAID THAT GISCARD INTENDS TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO REQUEST US LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION. JOURNIAC SAID THAT FRANCE HOPED TO HAVE THE AFRICAN FORCE IN PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS AT WHICH TIME THE FRENCH
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LEGIONAIRES WOULD COMMENCE THEIR RETURN TO FRANCE.

3. WE ENQUIRED WHETHER SAUDI ARABIA WAS THIS YEAR AS LAST INTERESTED IN THE SHABA DEVELOPMENTS. JOURNIAC SAID THAT THERE WAS SAUDI INTEREST AND THAT GISCARD INTENDED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH KING KHALID DURING HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK AND ASK FOR SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE OPERATION. HARTMAN. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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